

OFFICIAL

Attorney Docket No.: 5087.304-US

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Noguchi et al.

Confirmation No: 9126

Serial No.: 09/371,343

Group Art Unit: 1731

Filed: August 10, 1999

Examiner: Alvo, M.

For: Method For Producing Cellulose Derivatives

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSIONCommissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

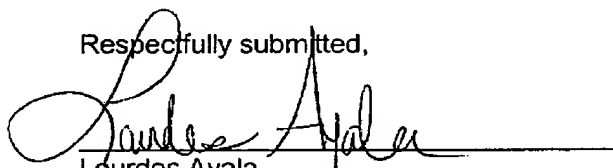
I hereby certify that the attached correspondence comprising:

1. Amendment Fee Transmittal (in duplicate)
2. Amendment

was sent to the United States Patent and Trademark Office by telefax to the attention of Examiner Alvo, M., fax number (703) 872-9310.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: January 15, 2003


Lourdes Ayala
Novozymes North America, Inc.
500 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1600
New York, NY 10110
(212) 840-0097**FAX RECEIVED**
JAN 16 2003
GROUP 1700

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AMENDMENT FEE TRANSMITTAL

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Transmitted herewith is an Amendment for the above-identified application in response to the Office Action mailed July 25, 2002.


It is respectfully requested that the time for response to the Office Action be extended for a period of 3 months from October 25, 2002 to January 25, 2003. The required fee for the extension is estimated to be \$930.

No additional claims fee is required.

Please charge the required extension fee, estimated to be \$930, to Novozymes North America, Inc., Deposit Account No. 50-1701. A duplicate of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: January 15, 2003



Jason I. Garbell, Reg. No. 44,116
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AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.111

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed July 25, 2002, please amend the above-identified application as follows (a marked up version pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.21 is attached hereto):

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please substitute the following amended claims for the pending claims having the same claim numbers:

- C¹
1. (Amended.) A method for producing a cellulose derivative, said method comprising
- a) treating a pulp with a hemicellulase under conditions in which the hemicellulase is enzymatically active, and
 - b) etherifying the treated pulp under conditions that result in etherification of cellulose molecules in the pulp, wherein the resulting cellulose ^{ether} derivative has improved filterability and a reduction in the formation of microgel.
- C²
6. (Amended.) The method of any of claims 1-4, wherein the etherification of step b) is methyl-etherification, ethyl-etherification, hydroxyethyl-etherification, hydroxypropyl-etherification, or carboxymethyl-etherification.

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